

The Weekly News

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Into the World to Seek a Fortune.

The District Government has been somewhat stirred during the past few days over the resignation, first, of Mr. West, then Commissioner Macfarland, the first to take up newspaper work; the latter to practice law.

Mr. West is a thorough newspaper man, having been connected with the Washington "Post" for many years prior to his commissionship, and regarded as the most brilliant of political writers which Washington boasted of in those days. Now, with his added experience which he has received as commissioner has only served to extend his acquaintance and to strengthen his grasp of political conditions in Washington and the country, so that we may look for those illuminating reports upon political questions which characterized Mr. West in days past.

Commissioner Macfarland, believing that it is never too late to mend, and that a small fortune laid by for a rainy day is a good thing, resigns his position to take up the practice of law.

We are glad at last that a man is found who can be honest in politics, and whose coffers have not been filled with the earnings of the poor. This might be a good reason for the continuance of our present form of government.

Now as to the influence Mr. Macfarland will have upon the young lawyers of our country it is hard to say. A fortune in law made after Dr. Osler's time allotted to man for work might be difficult to conceive, yet it may be possible.

When law is looked upon as a maker of fortunes, then we shall see a large majority of law students in our colleges.

A fortune in law, honestly obtained, following the Commissioner's good principles of policy and habit would be an influence for good which would never die.

We would call the attention of our readers to the lecture for women, on Tuesday, at 3 p. m., in room 916 of the Colorado Building, on "Health." It is an important subject, and we would advise those who can to attend.

Thanksgiving Proclamation  
By the President of the United States of America.

A PROCLAMATION.

The season of the year has returned when, in accordance with the reverent custom established by our forefathers, the people of the United States are wont to meet in their usual places of worship on a day of thanksgiving appointed by the civil magistrate to return thanks to God for the great mercies and benefits which they have enjoyed.

During this past year we have been highly blest. No great calamities or flood or tempest or epidemic sickness have befallen us. We have lived in quietness, undisturbed by wars or rumors of wars. Peace and the plenty of bounteous crops and of great industrial production animate a cheerful and resolute people to all the renewed energies of beneficent industry and material and moral progress. It is altogether fitting that we should humbly and gratefully acknowledge the divine source of these blessings.

Therefore, I hereby appoint Thursday, the 25th day of November, as a day of general thanksgiving, and I call upon the people on that day, laying aside their usual vocations, to repair to their churches and unite in appropriate services of praise and thanks to Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this 15th day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and nine, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-fourth.

WILLIAM H. TAFT.

By the President,  
P. C. Knox, Secretary of State.

DEFLECTION OF GREAT BRIDGES.

People nowadays hardly realize all the problems that Roebing, also of Niagara river fame, had to solve when he designed the Brooklyn Bridge; in fact, the strain practically killed him in the end. To mention one of the simpler problems that had to be considered: We know that the center of the river span rises and falls probably more than nine feet each way, partly due to the loadings and partly to the temperature changes. The maximum deflection of the Williamsburg bridge, a much more rigid structure, is only 6 feet 9 inches. Its four main cables are each made up of thirty-seven strands and each strand contains 208 wires, making 7,696 wires in each cable, or 31,784 wires in the four main cables, making nearly 18,000 miles of wire. And, as we have said, these cables stretch enough, owing to expansion and contraction, as well as to the effect of the live load on the bridge, to allow the center of the bridge to deflect 6 feet 9 inches, and yet this is a very rigid suspension bridge. The extreme deflection of the Blackwells Island bridge, due to temperature and loading, is expected to be about twenty inches as against nearly seven feet for Williamsburg and eighteen feet or so for the old Brooklyn bridge. — Engineering Magazine.

About 6.30 o'clock Monday morning little John, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Scharper, of 1907 17th St., had a narrow escape from death from drinking carbolic acid which was mixed with a little camphor as a toothache medicine. He is but two years old and thinking it was his cough syrup indulged freely in the contents until it was all gone.

His mother hurried him to Dr. Mudd's, and after doing all they could for the little fellow he was hurried over the bridge by his father until they met the ambulance which took him to the Casualty hospital. There he was soon relieved and left there promising the doctors and nurses he would not drink anything else unless it was given him.

TO BUILD UP THE SOUTH-EAST.

Close Alliance of the Citizens' Association Proposed.

A conference of presidents of citizens' associations in the southeastern suburbs of this city was held yesterday afternoon at the home of J. Walter Mitchell, Randle Highlands, for the purpose of considering the formation of a central committee, to be made up of delegates from each of the associations.

There was a general discussion of the proposition and the decision was reached, at the suggestion of Dr. W. K. Scott, president of the Hillsdale Citizens' Association, to request President W. W. Price, of the Congress Heights Public Improvement Association to call a meeting of representatives of the nine citizens' associations in the territory across the Eastern branch of the Potomac. It was explained that Mr. Price was chairman of the former southeast citizens' central committee. At the meeting to be called in the near future action will be taken to organize permanently the proposed central committee.

The purpose of the central body will be to secure unanimity of action on matters affecting the southeastern suburbs and to bring about the upbuilding of that section. The central committee will not infringe on matters of peculiar local interest to any of the nine citizens' associations, unless it is requested to do so by the organization immediately interested. It was explained at the conference its main purpose will be to assist in accomplishing projects for the welfare of the entire section, such as the reclamation of the Anacostia Flats, increased street car service, better fire protection, etc.

It is probable the next meeting will be held in the office of Robert F. Bradbury, in Twining City, at the call of Chairman Price some time this week.—From the Evening Star.

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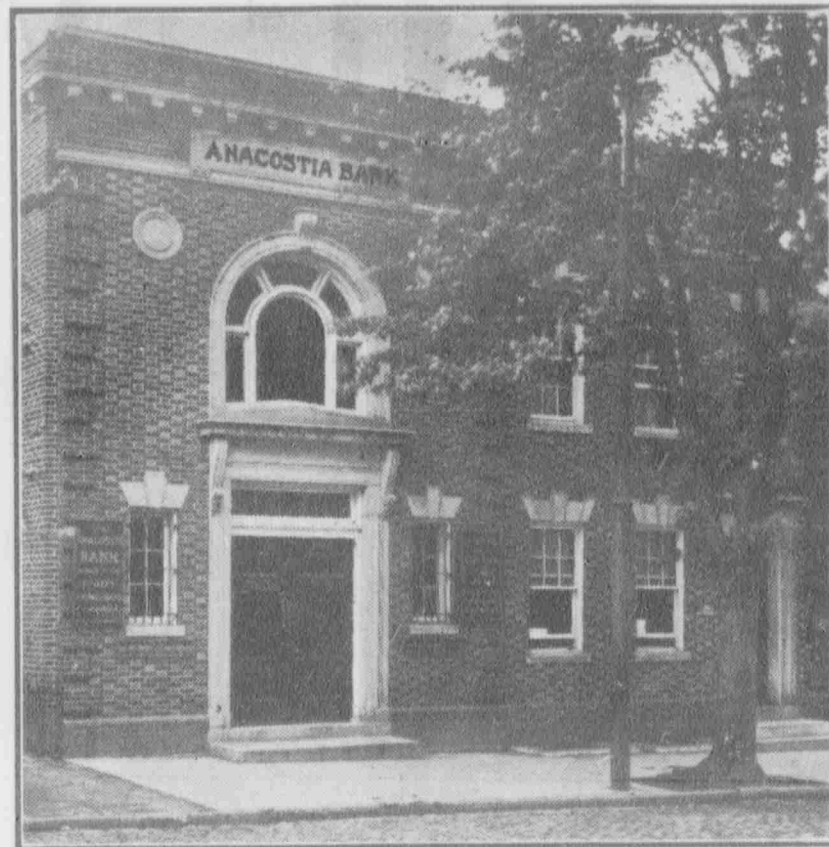
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